

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Rotermund, Sophie (Davies)

Sophie Rotermund Collection, 1915-1933

PCA 463

1 Photograph album
180 b&w photographs
15 photographs missing from album
85 loose b&w photographs

Processed by: James Simard, July 2006
Revised by: Anastasia Tarmann,
March 2013

ACQUISITION: A. Loren Kraetz donated the collection in 2006, accession #2006-015. Photographs 196-280, added February 28, 2013, accession #2013-005.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing.

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PROCESSING: The album is in fragile condition. Some album pages are loose, with a few photographs missing. Loose photos sleeved in Mylar.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sophie was born in 1890 at Arlington, Washington the only child of German parents. She was fluent in both English and German. She was trained at Bellingham Normal School, and worked as a teacher in Fort Yukon Alaska, between 1925 and 1927. She returned to Fort Yukon to teach again in 1930 or 31. Sophie met George Davies, a fur trapper, in 1931 at Fort Yukon, and they were married in 1932. The couple spent the remainder of their lives on a small farm in Arlington. The collection includes photos from George Davies' years in Alaska before meeting Sophie, beginning from 1915.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection contains the one photograph album and loose photographs from about 1912-1933. The images depict scenes of daily life in Interior Alaska, particularly Fort Yukon. Several images chronicle the journey to Fort Yukon, including scenes of Juneau and Seward.

INVENTORY

Album: #1-195a

1. Midnight sun on Yukon
2. Miss Fairbanks at Fort Yukon
3. Bridge at Nenana
4. A pretty spot near Juneau
5. Hudson Bay Cemetery
6. "Aleutian" passengers near Juneau
7. Alaska Crocuses
8. Six feet across [man with moose antlers]
9. Tanana River
10. Spencer Glacier north of Seward
11. Just arrived at Fort Yukon
12. Episcopal church near Tanana
13. Barney and I
14. Happy folks traveling down the Tanana
15. Two friends and Barney
16. The Girls' Team
17. A winter scene
18. Going home from church
19. Ice on the Porcupine
20. A runaway ice cake; Haly's Roadhouse
21. At the roadhouse
22. Mail for "Outside"; Post Office
23. A good place to stop; Fort Yukon Hotel

- 24, 25. At Old Crow Yukon Territory
Caribou brought across Old Crow River
- 26, 27. Getting ready for winter
28. Group of Eskimos (Husky dogs)
29. Esaias Simon Travels
30. Huskies leaving Ft. Yukon
31. On the banks of the Yukon
32. My nine friends
33. Eskimo home
34. Game warden's sled
35. Punk & Bum Camp
36. A musher
37. At Fairbanks [Motorcycle and rider, pulling sled.]
38. Road Commission [unreadable] cabin
39. Nine dogs at work
40. Yes, were fine
41. On Chandler Trail
42. Ready to go? [Several people standing by an airplane]
43. Big Steve travels
44. See our cat?
45. Blackie & Brownie [Sophie with two dogs]
46. Off for a picnic
47. unlabeled
48. Miss. Dalaiel
49. A fine team [sled dogs]
50. We enjoyed the break-up at Fort Yukon
51. Some of my pupils
52. At the hospital
53. Picnic in winter
54. Valdemir, Jim-Jim, Alfred
55. Working in summer
56. Horton's Store, Ft. Y.
57. Nine dogs on a narrow trail
58. Good company
59. A camp-robber at large
60. On Yukon River
61. Cut bank on Yukon
62. Jonathan's team in front of the hospital
63. Native teams and toboggans
64. Winter sun and sun-dog
65. Easter Sunday on the river
66. Church is over
67. Good for many miles

68. Cooney looks suspicious
69. We've had a fine trip
70. Me and my pals
71. Blackie and our cat
- 72., 73. Arranging a \$15,000 catch
74. Successful trappers Mason Bros. & Mrs. Mason (photograph missing)
75. 173 skins (photograph missing)
76. Mission of Our Savior, Tanana, Alaska
77. 112 skins (photograph missing)
78. Christmas greeting and best wishes for the New Year from Nome. F. J. O'Hara M. D. Loman Bros, Nome, #1004
79. Hospital, Ft. Yukon
80. Governor Parks and ...
81. First Steamboat
- 82 - 87. Fort Yukon Panorama, (1-5)
88. Bishop Row and friends
89. Dreaming of Minneapolis
90. "Snapping" the breakup
91. Snubbing logs, high water
92. What are they?
93. On the banks of the Yukon
94. We were pals (Sophie)
95. Lu Rene
96. On a Saturday hike
97. Ready to go home? (Sophie)
98. Our mail carrier on way to Circle
99. John our water carrier
100. [clipping] Tony Nordale, old-time Alaskan Hotel man - the Oscar of Fairbanks
101. Young racers [puppies]
102. cute? [puppies]
- 103-106. [photographs missing]
107. Happy school kiddies [native children at school house]
108. Watching the freeze-up on Yukon in October
109. Taking it easy; Horton & Moore Outfitters Trappers Supplies; American Railroad Express
110. Landed on the river (Sophie) [airplane and people on ice]
111. Two modes of travel [airplane and dog sled]
112. At 1A.M. I snapped the sun, May 25
113. Governor Geo. Parks at Ft. Yukon
114. Government school and teacher's cottage
115. Right after lunch
116. The river is bankfull May 12 (1925)

117. On a trip in April (Sophie)
118. A busy staff (log building with sign: Hudson Stuck Memorial Hospital)
119. Near Fairbanks
120. Trying to look pleasant?
121. One fine Sunday
122. Who wants this melon? (Sophie)
- 123, 124. Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Wilkerson (Grace & Al)
125. Addie tries on a baby Strap
126. What's the news?
127. Spring on the Yukon (Sophie)
128. Dressed for comfort at Fort Yukon
- 129, 130. Some of my pupils picked autumn leaves, Sept. 5, 1928
131. Drying fish
132. Central house
133. F. B. McDonald at Fairbanks
134. Pansies at the college (Sophie)
135. Chair made of caribou, moose, and goat horns
136. "Nice baby, have some candy?" [Man feeding bear cub]
137. Reindeer-caribou, Alaska College
138. Dr. Burke, Dr. O'Hara, and children at the mission
139. The Needle Club [sewing group]
140. My hospital window
141. Not a totem pole, just a curiously carved tree
142. Seward, Aaa
143. Aboard "Northwestern" (Sophie)
144. When navigation stops on the Yukon
145. Newly weds
146. Dandy skating until the snow flies
147. Watching the break-up at Tanana
148. A summer's ice supply?
149. The mighty Yukon breaks
150. [photograph missing]
151. No boatribe yet a while?
152. Chester at work
153. [photograph missing]
- 154, 155. Nearly wrecked Main Street [flooded street]; Horton & Moore Dealers
In Merchandise and Raw Furs
- 156, 157, 158. [photographs missing]
159. [unidentified woman on frozen river]
160. Getting the water supply
161. [photograph missing]
162. [sign] A golden spike was driven at this point by President Harding on
completion of the Alaska Railroad, July 15, 1923

163. [Yukon steamer]
164. Sophie [at bridge]
165. [greeting card] Greetings from Alaska, 1931 - 1932, Sophia [Sophie] Rotermund
166. [group of children standing on cord-wood]
167. [two unidentified men]
168. [unidentified man and woman in a garden, log building in b.g.]
169. [woman and two children on porch of a log building]
170. [unidentified man with three boys]
171. [photograph missing]
172. [greeting card with photograph] Greetings from Mr and Mrs William Butler, Fort Yukon, Alaska
173. [unidentified woman in winter clothing and snow shoes]
174. [group of people] Sophie in center
175. [unidentified woman on a sunny day]
176. [unidentified woman and a dog]
177. [photograph missing]
178. [a man with four boys]
179. [float plane landing or taking off, ramp in foreground]
180. [crashed airplane]
181. [three men with an airplane]
182. [sled dogs]
183. [man in sinter scene]
184. [wooden railroad structure destroyed by ice]
185. George's winter home.
186. George Davies from England.
187. Sophie
- 185 - 187. Sophie Rotermund married George Davies in 1932.
188. [portrait of unidentified woman]
189. [portrait of unidentified man and woman]
190. [unidentified man smoking a pipe]
191. George Davies
- 192, 193. [a group of unidentified women picnicking]
194. George Davies [with group of people]
195. [portrait of unidentified man]
- 195a. [shoulder and head portrait of two women wearing hats, trees in background]

Folder: #196-280

196. 1928 catch of J.L. Thomas: Lynx, Min, Ermine, Fox red, Muskrat.
197. 1928 catch of J.L. Thomas: Wolves, Lynx, Fox red, Wolverine, Mink, Ermine
198. Valued at \$15,000
199. Part of \$15,000 fur catch

200. These three trapped many miles northeast of Ft. Yukon
201. Ten friends on Coal Cr. George [Davis], upper right in a big hat. [All ten names on newspaper clip, included]
202. [Ten friends on Coal Cr.]. George Davis, upper right, back row.
203. [Envelope with names, dates, and some biographical information]
204. Ft. Yukon series. Radio station, Roadhouse...residences...heavy timber...
205. Ft. Yukon series. Good view of the "Leading Hotel" ...
206. Ft. Yukon series. Main Street...hospital...
207. Ft. Yukon series. Commercial Co....Old native cemetery...boat landing...substantial log houses of the natives.
208. Henry Martell's team. 18 dogs.
209. Airmail. Ben Eilson's plane on pioneer flight to McGrath from Fairbanks...
210. Ben Eilson's airmail service...
211. Dawn on Kuskokwim River
212. Noel Wien's plane at McGrath
213. Bennett's plane at McGrath
214. G.D. [plane]
215. Episcopal Church at Fort Yukon...Beaded altar cloth is of moose hide.
216. Green house at Ft. Yukon, 1932.
217. George's house [unidentified young adult in photo].
218. My cabin at McGrath
219. George Davies at the bottom of the canyon on Bonanza Creek. I am cooking at a fire behind
220. Glacier Creek. Sushanna Diggings.
221. George Davies. After the break-up of Yukon River, May 1932
222. [Ice floe. Part of letter on photo print.]
223. Ice cake pushing into building.
224. [Ice] in our front yard.
225. Mr. Horton [?], Sareant Curlee, and Cheateo Takeu [?] at 2 a.m. in the morning of the break-up.
226. Ice crowding up over the bank of river.
227. Steam boat Fort Yukon
228. Calico Bluff Yukon River. GD
229. One of Calico Bluffs Yukon River Alaska
230. Break-up of ice on Tacotna River Alaska [2 copies]
231. Break-up Tacotna River
232. Fort Yukon Hotel
233. On Tacotna River, 1925. Going downstream.
234. Chief Christian frequently visited Fort Yukon
235. Caribou
236. Taking out wood at Tozie Island, Yukon, 1920.
237. Mill at Kennicott
238. Crossing mouth of Tacotna River at McGrath on Kuskokwim.

- 239. On the trail, 1916
- 240. All my worldly goods are on the sleigh. Jumbo in the lead. 1916.
- 241. [George Davies? Mountain scene. 2 copies]
- 242. School, cache, church, mission, doctor, hospital, post, Main Street
[abbreviated]
- 243. Carribou. Coal Creek, 1920
- 244. George's cabin on Tozie Island, 1925
- 245. McGrath, 1925
- 246. George's cabin at McGrath, 1925 [in standing water?]
- 247. Government cottage for teachers. [Sophie in front?]. 2 copies.
- 248. George and Sophie Davies on left, 1933. George and Sophie Davies [card].
- 249. [Four adults, one child, two dogs in front of cabin with windows]
- 250. Fort Yukon. [Wedding scene?]. George and Sophie Davies [card].
- 251. [Hudson Bay Company Memorial, erected 1823].
- 252. [Hudson Bay Graveyard]
- 253. Hudson Bay Graveyard, Fort Yukon, Alaska. 2 copies.
- 254. Potato patch, Fort Yukon, 1929
- 255. Potato Patch and Winter Wood Ft. Yukon
- 256. Calico Bluff, Yukon River, Alaska
- 257. Calico Bluff, Yukon River
below Eagle, Alaska
- 258. Calico Bluff...
- 259. Ice running Kuskokwim River, Alaska
- 260. Lucy Moses, Circle, Alaska [with baby]
- 261. George's home
- 262. Fort Yukon [[child in fur mitts and boots]
- 263. [Young woman in hat and beads and belted dress]
- 264. George's lead dog, Jumbo
- 265. Fort Yukon [two children]
- 266. [Two school-age girls]
- 267. [Jumbo]
- 268. Jumbo 14 years old
- 269. Fort Yukon, 1928
- 270. Glacier
- 271. On Tacotna River
- 272. [Two children dressed for Winter]
- 273. Lucy Moses baby, Circle. GD
- 274. Native family on Yukon. GD
- 275. [Sophie with dog]
- 276. The ice going out
- 277. White horse rapids, Yukon, GD
- 278. White horse rapids, GD
- 279. 1932, Midnight sun, Fort Yukon GD

280. Some of our chickens. Quite a family scene. Fort Yukon, 1931